

Architectural Thesis

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AN ARCHITECT'S STUDIO

BY

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THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

SHERMAN THOMPSON

ENTITLED AN ARCHITECT'S STUDIO

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Bachelor of Science in Architecture

A. Clifford Barker.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture

1904
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"AN ARCHITECT'S STUDIO"

Buildings which may be strictly termed "Architect's Studios" are less frequent in the United States than in Europe. Most architects in selecting an office, try to locate in a business district, and therefore must, almost necessarily occupy a suite in an office building. We have in this country only a few instances of buildings erected solely as studios. H. H. Richardson was one of the first architects who devoted a considerable amount of time to the idea of educating his draughtsmen to his way of thinking, and for this purpose he built a studio in the vicinity of Brookline, Massachusetts. This studio was a school of the draughtsman, where the apprentice studied under the tutorage of the master.

Wishing to study a problem which had not been studied and restudied a great number of times, I undertook the solution of "An Architect's Studio."

The first thing in solving a problem of this kind is to select the requirements which most satisfactorily suit the individual. In most of the larger offices there are two distinct office forces; the designing, and the constructional. I have adhered to this arrangement and kept each distinct in itself; but both are drawn closely together by a common draughting room. A careful study of all conditions developed the following program:



A general draughting room to accommodate forty draughtsmen.

Vaults and toilets in connection with draughting room.

Two special work rooms for competitions, etc.

Designing Department.

Private office and toilet

Library

Head draughtsman's office and toilet

Client's room.

Constructional Department

Private office and toilet

Sample room

Engineer's room and toilet

Contractor's room.

After settling the requirement of the number of rooms, the general atmosphere of the office had to be considered. If this is to be a school of the draughtsman it must also be home-like. This requirement I have tried to fulfill by arranging the whole about two courts. The spaciousness of the layout takes away the idea of being cramped, and allows of great freedom.

The uncovered court around which the draughting room is arranged, provides a resting place in pleasant weather, and a free circulation of air in the draughting room.

The covered court in the office part of the building is a sort of club room where casts and drawings are exhibited, and

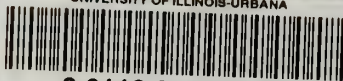
through which communication is obtained to the different parts of the building.

In the design of the exterior, originality of the architect should be evident, and for this reason I have exercised my own imagination along these lines. Having a preference for Romanesque ornament, I finally decided to adapt it to a classic composition. The diaper pattern of the frieze is studied from Romanesque tracery, and is in terra cotta, but instead of the bright sun shining through the tracery, the background has been colored to emphasize the ornament. In this way the problem has been solved in an original and effective manner.





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